



Name of Project: Consumer Directed Community Supports

Name of Organization: Minnesota Department of Human Services

Principle of Choices for Independence: Consumer Direction

Description

In 2004, the Minnesota Department of Human Services, Aging and Adult Services Division received funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to launch an effort to extend consumer-direction to older adults. The goal of Minnesota's Consumer Directed Community Supports Program is to make consumer directed supports a permanent statewide service option across populations and funding streams. To realize this goal, the Minnesota Department of Human Services, in partnership with the Minnesota Board on Aging, is working to provide older consumers the option to control their own home and community based services whether funded through public programs such as Medicaid waivers, Alternative Care program, Title III of the Older Americans Act (OAA), or private pay.

The project has received waivers to offer consumer direction in all 1915c waivers that serve both elderly and disabled of all ages, with features that include fiscal management services and re-training for case managers. They also received funding to expand consumer directed respite services to caregivers through OAA Title III. To date they have enrolled 190 participants, with 49 of these from the Title III respite program.

Consumer Directed Community Supports is a Cash & Counseling program. Cash & Counseling is a national program sponsored by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation in the United States Department of Health and Human Services (ASPE/DHHS), and the Administration on Aging (AoA). The Cash & Counseling service model is a form of consumer-direction or self-direction intended to empower individuals to make choices and take control of the community support services that they receive. The goal of the model is to enhance their ability to live the life they wish to in the community.

For more information about the Minnesota project contact **Jane Vujovich** at 651-431-2573 or by e-mail at Jane.Vujovich@state.mn.us

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